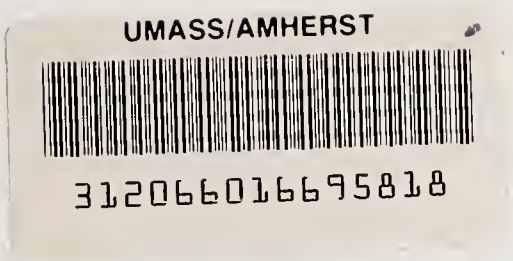


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The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School

Application for Charter from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Submitted October 17, 1994 by a Founding Coalition of parents from Franklin, Massachusetts to the Secretary of Education of Massachusetts, Piedad Robertson and the Governor of Massachusetts, William F. Weld

Approved /ms

DEC 09 1994

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF EDUCATION

1. Mission Statement

The following mission statement has been adopted by the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School: To assist parents in their role as primary educators of their children by providing the children with a classical academic education coupled with sound character development.

2. School Objectives

There exists a body of knowledge of proved, lasting significance, assumed in public discourse and known by a broad majority of literate Americans. The proponents of the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School call this “classical” knowledge. We assert that this core of shared knowledge in elementary grades is necessary for excellence in schooling, as proved by achievement in Sweden, France and Japan, where a specific core of knowledge is taught in each of the first six grades. A shared background knowledge makes schooling more effective, because teachers are able to build on a common foundation. It is our objective to allow our students mastery of this classical knowledge through academic experience in our school. We will be providing our students with a carefully planned, thematically-integrated curriculum in which each year builds on the previous and in turn provides the foundation for the year to come.

In fulfillment of our statement above, the academic objectives of the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School are to pass on to our children a core of classical knowledge that will allow them to accumulate a historical sense of the world in which they live.

Details about academic goals are explored below in responses to 10A and 10B, and through our submission of the Core Knowledge Curriculum.

To answer the question about the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School’s non-academic goals, it is necessary to provide some background for our character building program. According to the Pulitzer Prize winning biography of Benjamin Franklin written by Carl Van Doren, Franklin attested that “without virtue, man can have no happiness in this world.” Accordingly, Franklin composed a scheme of virtues: temperance, silence, order, resolution, frugality, industry, sincerity, justice, moderation, cleanliness, tranquility, chastity, and humility.

“I made a little book, in which I allotted a page for each of the virtues . . . I determined to give a week’s strict attention to each of the virtues successively . . . And like him who having a garden to weed, does not attempt to eradicate all the bad herbs at once, but works on one of the beds at a time . . . I hoped [to see] in my pages the progress I made.”

We believe that there are traits of character that are universally acclaimed and admired. These traits of character can be fostered within the school so that children learn to develop habits that will make them strong and able to mature into responsible adults who can make a positive contribution to society.

With this introduction, the founding coalition of the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School intends the following non-academic goals:

- To offer the students and their families a thematic character-building program designed after the program implemented by Franklin. Students, faculty and families will focus on a virtue for a

designated period of time. The virtue will be defined and examples of its practice will be presented. Wherever possible, faculty will integrate the virtue into the classroom by offering models drawn from literature and history. An example of this would be studying a biography of Helen Keller during the time period when the students are considering the virtues of bravery and perseverance; or when studying the Greek myth about Icarus and Daedalus, considering the virtues of humility and obedience. Family discussion of each virtue will be encouraged and facilitated.

In addition, each student will participate in a Faculty-Student Advisory Program. Students in grades K through 4 will meet with their classroom teacher on a regular basis to set small, attainable goals for academic and behavioral improvement. For students in grades 5 through 9, an advisor will be assigned to meet with them on a regular basis to set goals and review incremental accomplishments.

- To encourage parents to recognize their role as the primary educators of their children. As such, the parents of our students will welcome their responsibility to share in the education of their children in many phases, including remediation and challenge when deemed appropriate. Because of the proven, positive correlation between parental involvement and student success, parents will be required to volunteer in some capacity within a time frame that is sensitive to the needs of parents working in the paid labor force. A parent volunteer program will consist of parents coming into the school on a scheduled basis to share their talents and to assist in a variety of tasks. The presence of these parents will provide faculty advisors the time to meet with their advisees.
- To encourage children to view their studies as their present professional work and to give their studies priority.
- To develop strong self-esteem in the students by encouraging them to build on strengths and overcome weakness, specifically through service to the community. We believe that service to the community is one of the best ways to engage youthful energy, because accomplishing something in the real world gives children an opportunity to take themselves and their endeavors seriously. By making a real contribution, children recognize that they are persons capable of positively affecting other people, their local environment, and the world. This community involvement will be the focus of the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School self-esteem program.

In answering the question, “what type of community environment” will be fostered at the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School, the founding coalition responds: Within the specific community of the school we will create an atmosphere in which students can act with assurance in expressing their unique personalities, while respecting the diversity of others.

We will build this community by highlighting universal virtues within the context of the daily school life. For example, integrity, responsibility, moral literacy, maturity, determination, effort, confidence, sound judgement, toughness, self-control, loyalty, and self-reliance are universally acclaimed character traits that contribute to self-esteem. Our community will include special programs to form habitual strengths of character.

A hallmark of our community will be parental involvement, from the beginning of the admissions process. Teachers will communicate with parents directly or through student advisors on a regular basis to advise parents of the students’ progress, strengths/weaknesses and areas of expressed interest.

In order for the school to spend more time on core subjects, parents will be asked to participate in individual remediation and challenge and to provide home instruction and/or reinforcement of non-core subject material, i.e., health and safety issues, social skills, study skills and mental health issues. The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School will assist the parents in this task by providing written guidelines and periodic presentations to educate parents and support them in their role as the primary educators of their children.

Being “in service to the community” will be a characteristic of students at the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School. Self-esteem building is at the core of community service. On-going community service projects such as:

- visiting on a regular basis Franklin Health Care, a senior living center and nursing facility, in order to read to and entertain the elderly residents;
- putting on performing arts events for the community;
- donating time to environmental clean-ups and recycling centers;
- volunteering at the Franklin Public Library;
- assisting at the annual toy and clothing drive to benefit local area shelters and food pantries;

will foster the school’s relationship with the larger community and develop the personal responsibility and integrity that will be the characteristic of students in our school. “In service to the community” is a win-win situation: for children to accomplish something tangible in the real world contributes to their self-esteem; and the school cements its relationship with professionals and adults in the community by arranging for the children to perform worthwhile service.

3. Statement of Need

To demonstrate the need for a school of this type, the founding coalition of the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School submits the following:

“Each year 32 million children will be taught by more than 1.6 million teachers in 81,000 American schools. What takes place in these classrooms will determine the future of American learning. Our system of education is like a pyramid. Each level . . . depends for the fulfillment of its aims and expectations on earlier student preparation and achievement. Failure at any one level will diminish possibilities for the next. And failure at the foundation — failure by any significant number of elementary schools to teach well, failure by any significant number of elementary school students to learn what they should — will diminish the whole.

“That learning is necessarily incremental and cumulative does not mean that it must be painful or unwanted. Quite the opposite, in fact. Education has a powerful ally in human nature. Any parent can confirm that young children have a healthy appetite for facts and information, even about subjects that may not become fully meaningful to them until much later in their lives. Most families do their best to satisfy part of this appetite at home, and most want and expect their elementary schools to help out.

But many parents it seems are now unhappy with the help they're getting. By a two-to-one margin in the 1987 Gallup education poll, Americans all across the country said that our elementary schools pay insufficient attention to instruction in basic knowledge.

“Opinions like these are not to be taken lightly. Determining goals for elementary curricula is not an esoteric or scientific pursuit for experts only, and parents need not be sophisticated in the language and literature of school research to tell good education from bad. When it comes to their children, it is American parents who have the strongest, sharpest, and truest motives for concern. If they want our schools to teach their children more and better content — fundamental skills, facts, and ideas — they should be listened to.

“Received educational wisdom often stands opposed to common sense; today, unfortunately, much of it also stands opposed to content. In the professional schools that train our teachers and develop our curricula, it is still possible — more than a decade after the nation's disastrous educational experiments of the 1960's and 1970's — to see content-rich elementary skills derided as “rote” learning, to be told that children may be taught “higher-order thinking skills” without reference to specific knowledge, or to hear that the “mere facts” of traditional school subjects are unimportant to early instruction in more relevant general “understandings”.

“These superstitions and prejudices still find their way into our children's elementary school classrooms — in English programs that spurn serious literature in favor of bland basal readers and skill workbooks; in social studies teaching that neglects history and geography to concentrate on mundane details of everyday life; in mathematics instruction that, however dressed up with fancy new strategies and slogans, is nevertheless restricted to years of repetitive, rudimentary arithmetic; in science lessons without scientific method; in art and music “experiences” which rarely extend beyond undisciplined appeals to feelings and emotions; and in foreign language education that hardly exists at all.

“The genius of modern American education has been its application of discoveries about the rhythms and patterns of childhood intellectual development to a system of mass and democratic schooling. These discoveries are real, and they are valuable. Today we know more about the process of learning than we ever have before. While we teach, we try to encourage our children to be inventive, flexible and creative. We try to mobilize their interests, to accommodate our instruction to their individual needs, and to develop in them the capacity for self expression and independent study.

“Information about the process of teaching and learning can reveal a lot about our educational goals — what their limits might be and how we might best approach them. But it cannot determine those goals on its own; it has little to say about what our elementary school students should know. That much is up to us.”

William J. Bennett, former U.S. Secretary of Education

It is our contention that there is a need for the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School, which will use the Core Knowledge Sequence to redress the need for basic content in elementary education. Further and apart from the academic suitability, the development of self-esteem is a critical need in today's environment and it will be fostered by our school through community involvement and personal achievement. Universally respected and acclaimed character traits will be fostered and developed in this school

so that children will have a basis from which to reject the appalling social conditions that characterize our times and can feel personally responsible and able to combat the problems around them.

In Colorado, where charter school legislation has been introduced, proponents of the Core Knowledge Sequence have recently been issued a charter, and they show evidence of tremendous success. We in Massachusetts have the opportunity to benefit from their experience and pioneer the same effort in our state. Although a Core Knowledge Sequence can be included in an existing public school curriculum, a charter school provides a unique management opportunity for an innovative trial of the Core Knowledge Sequence.

4. School Demographics

The Southwest area of Greater Boston is experiencing dramatic population growth in general and an upsurge in elementary and secondary age students in particular. In a more narrow focus, the town of Franklin is the single fastest growing town in the state of Massachusetts. In fact, evidence would support the establishment of two charter schools in the town.

Further, the town of Franklin has acknowledged that a crisis exists in providing for this burgeoning school-age population. A Classroom Needs Committee has been working for the past year to resolve the shortage of classroom space. That committee has published a compendium of statistics that document the expected population growth, the lack of suitable sites within the current public school system, the growing concern of residents for a quality education, and the need to address this problem in the very near future.

The members of the founding coalition look upon these demographic realities as opportunities for innovation rather than obstacles to progress. As citizens of Franklin, we are concerned not only for the academic welfare of our children, but also for the overall welfare of our community. We believe that the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School offers parents the ability to contribute to the development of the town and to exercise civic responsibility. This commitment to civic responsibility is also at the heart of the school's mission.

Given the pending growth in the school age population, the founding coalition is confident the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School would attract at least thirty students in each grade. The proposed budget and curriculum is structured to accommodate 15 students in a classroom. Accordingly, in the first year of the school's existence, total enrollment would be 150 students in grades K through 4. Each year the school will add a grade to bring our projected enrollment for 1999 to a total of 270 students in grades K through 8. We believe that in subsequent years demand for the core curriculum will increase. However, it is our intention to limit classroom size to 25 students.

The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School will lease space in a 16 classroom school building presently owned by the Archdiocese of Boston. This site was chosen because of its very visible location overlooking the town common and within walking distance to the town library and Dean College.

5. Recruiting and Marketing Plan

To attract applicants we will advertise in:

- a local newspaper (the *Country Gazette*);
- *West Weekly*, a publication of *The Boston Sunday Globe* that reaches west suburban households;
- bulletin publishing;
- community handbills.

Additionally, we will utilize local cable channels to broadcast a videotape about the Core Knowledge curriculum used in the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School; and we will seek air time on the Dean College radio station.

Our plan for specific outreach also includes public meetings and community forums at area libraries. The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School will provide mini-courses in a summer program for potential students, developed from the Core Knowledge Sequence. This exposure will increase our visibility in the local area.

To reach out to students who have neither parent nor guardian to act as advocate, we will contact the Massachusetts Department of Social Services and the Department of Human Services in Franklin for the names of potential students.

6. Admissions Policy

Families interested in participating in the program offered at the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School will complete an admissions process consisting of an application form, an interview, and a family contract based upon the results of an academic placement test.

Application and Interview

The parent(s) or guardian* seeking admission for a child will submit a written application form. Completed applications must be submitted by March 1, 1995. Upon receipt of the completed application form, the school will schedule an interview with the parent(s) or guardian, the child, and a representative from the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School. In that interview we will explain our mission to the prospective family to determine if the family's philosophy of education matches that of the school.

*In the event that a student demonstrates the desire to attend the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School and the motivation to succeed in the program, but does not have a guardian able to willing to support said student, arrangements may be made for an advisor on the staff of the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School to assume the admissions responsibilities required for eligibility.

Each student will be evaluated based on information obtained from the application and the interview. A numerical score between 0 and 10 (10 being the highest score) will be assigned to each of the following factors:

- 1) Agreement of parent(s) or guardian to play a primary role in the student's academic development. This may include assuming responsibility for any remediation or challenge required by the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School.
- 2) Willingness of parent(s) to participate in the parent volunteer program within a time frame that is sensitive to the needs of those working in the paid labor force and to their various talents and abilities.
- 3) Willingness of parent(s) and child to abide by school rules and demonstration of a desire to attend the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School.
- 4) Willingness of the parent(s) and child to participate fully in the character building program and community service projects.
- 5) Possession of skills (reading, writing, speech, basic math concepts).
- 6) Emotional maturity
- 7) Ability to work both independently and in groups.

The total score of the seven admission factors must equal or exceed 56 for a student to be eligible for admission to the school.

Family Contract

At the time of the interview, the student will take an admissions placement test to determine English and Math skills. The test results will not be used to determine the eligibility of a student. The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School will use the combined results of this test and information derived during the personal interview to draw up a family contract specifying the role of the parent(s) in remediation and challenge.

Students performing at or below grade level may be required to limit television viewing time to enable the student to spend additional time on remediation. In addition, a family may be required to spend a specified number of minutes each day reading aloud and/or listening to their child read from a classical literary work, or to spend a specified number of minutes each day doing math drills and problems to increase speed in computation and understanding of math concepts.

Phonics, spelling, and math remediation programs will be available on loan from the school or public library – i.e., Hooked on Phonics, Hooked on Math, Alpha phonics, CalcuLadder.

Students performing at or above grade level may be required to limit television viewing time to enable the student to spend additional time on challenging projects as specified by the teacher and/or student advisor.

The family must sign and demonstrate a willingness to implement the family contract, which may be reviewed and revised at any time during the school year.

It is the belief of the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School that these admissions criteria — a completed application, an interview with parent and child, and a family contract — will ensure the success of each child, and each family enrolled in the school and further the mission of the school in a non-discriminatory fashion. Since the parents will share in the implementation of the plan, it is imperative that parents attend the initial interview. Children, their parents, and their learning cannot be separated; and scores of evaluations have shown that students are most interested in education when their parents express an interest in it. Because our school will be visible in the community, parents and students need to understand from the beginning what is expected of them. Because we will encourage prospective students from all over the Metro West region to apply to the school, we hope to find a diverse group of people who have a common interest in the excellence of profound education as communicated in the Core Knowledge curriculum.

Determination of eligibility will be made strictly on the basis of the Admissions Policy of the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School without regard to race, color, sex, creed, or national origin, in compliance with provisions in Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 71, Section 89.

If the total number of eligible applicants who reside in the town of Franklin or are siblings of students attending the school is greater than the number of spaces available, then an admissions lottery will be held to fill all of the spaces from among said students. If there are more spaces available than eligible Franklin applicants and siblings of attending students and more other eligible applicants than spaces left available, then a lottery shall be held to determine which of said applicants shall be admitted. Both lotteries will be public drawings performed by a representative from a Big Six accounting firm or some other equally honest and impartial participant.

7. Profile of Founding Coalition

The group of people seeking to establish this charter school is made up of parents to whom issues of character building, self-esteem and academic depth are important.

The founding coalition consists of the following persons:

David Brennan	127 Summer Street, Franklin	520-0413
Mary Brennan	127 Summer Street, Franklin	520-0413
Julie Casey	390 Oakland Parkway, Franklin	541-8508
Timothy Casey	390 Oakland Parkway, Franklin	541-8508
Katherine Ginnetty	6 Sunken Meadow Road, Franklin	533-5808
Matthew Ginnetty	6 Sunken Meadow Road, Franklin	533-5808
Anne Johansson	5 Chickadee Drive, Norfolk	520-3554
Brian Johansson	5 Chickadee Drive, Norfolk	520-3554
Margaret Murphy	5 Longfellow Drive, Franklin	528-3141
Robert Murphy	5 Longfellow Drive, Franklin	528-3141
Lori Robinson	1 Meadowbrook Road, Franklin	520-1785
Rick Robinson	1 Meadowbrook Road, Franklin	520-1785

This group of parents came together because of a common belief that public education could be enhanced by providing programs with academic depth that include plans for character building, and activities that foster and satisfy inquisitive minds. From informal conversations among parents at various events, especially when in attendance at public school meetings and community activities and in our homes, the group decided to move forward with a formal application when the media began to explain the Education Reform Act and the concept of charter school formation.

The founding coalition is made up of individuals with varied talents and community affiliations, including experience in insurance, law, banking, education, finance, and engineering. Individuals have been active in a variety of community endeavors including the development of the Franklin Family YMCA and the Franklin Public Library. We have established communication with Dean College which has demonstrated a desire to work cooperatively with the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School, and hope to establish additional cooperative arrangements with the local School of Performing Arts and the local Audubon chapter.

8. Timetable

A timetable of events leading up to opening is:

- Submission of Application Parts I & II by February 14th, 1994
- Acceptance of Application Parts I & II by March 15, 1994
- Submission of Application Part III by October 1, 1994
- Secure site by October 31, 1994
- Receipt of Charter by October 31, 1994
- Personnel interviews from November 1, 1994 – March 1, 1995
- Hiring of Dean by January 1, 1995
- Negotiation to secure lunch and transportation contracts by January 1, 1995
- Hiring of other personnel by March 1, 1995
- Student applications submitted by March 1, 1995
- Student interviews March 1 – April 1, 1995
- Student notification of acceptance by April 15, 1995
- Ordering of books and materials and building supplies by June 1, 1995
- Summer workshops and planning sessions ongoing through the summer months, 1995
- September 8, 1995 — Opening Day at the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School

PART II

9. Evidence of Support

Letters of support are an attachment to this application.

10. Educational Program

In describing the educational program of the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School, the founding coalition submits the Core Knowledge Sequence, attached as a separate document.

A variety of thoughtful, engaging teaching methods will be employed at the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School, including for example, collaborative learning, writing process workshops, hands-on projects, plays, interdisciplinary and theme-based units, seminars and cooperative education.

Teachers will address student questions in a timely and appropriate manner. Many spontaneous questions in elementary grades are prompted by children's natural curiosity about the working of the world. All teachers will be encouraged to develop their knowledge of the principles and laws governing the natural sciences.

Our school hours of operation and calendar will follow the existing public school hours and calendar currently used in the area.

11. Student Performance

The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School exists to fulfill students' educational needs. The public cry for better educated children requires increased pupil performance standards. Our proposed plan to assess student performance relies on Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School teachers assessing their students' knowledge in a variety of ways, combining traditional instruments (e.g., paper-and-pencil tests, reports, quizzes) with other forms of assessment, including portfolios, performances, and collaborative projects.

Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School students will be required to take one or more standardized tests currently used by existing public schools. The goal of performance of Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School students will be attainment levels 10% higher than those in the same grades in traditional public schools.

Our plan for remediation of under-performing students begins with a review of attainment levels by the instructional staff on a regular basis. The Lead Teacher will originate tests based on the Core Knowledge Sequence. Attainment may be demonstrated by oral examination, video production, computer work, written examinations, writing samples, artistic renderings, or any combination of these examples. There is no standardized test of Core Knowledge content, though some schools have developed cumulative tests of Core Knowledge in order to diagnose (rather than evaluate) their students' knowledge, and to help those students who may have particular gaps or weaknesses. In general, teachers in Core Knowledge schools assess their students' knowledge in a variety of ways, combining traditional instruments with other forms of assessment, including portfolios, performances, and collaborative projects. If a student is

having difficulty, a plan will be devised to provide that student with additional instructional time via tutors, parental volunteers, aides, labs, after-school or at-home work, or any combination of the above as determined by the Lead Teacher.

Communication with parents who will help with remediation is crucial and in line with the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School's mission statement and admission requirements. Parents will be asked to help with remediation; they will also be kept informed about superior performance and encouraged to provide additional challenges through local resources including the public library.

Development of skills will be measured through diagnostic tests, classroom presentations, and teacher evaluations. The goal of the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School is to have all children exposed to the Core Knowledge Sequence, but the presentation can differ to accommodate different learning styles. Some of these presentations are listed above. Because the Lead Teachers will be providing attainment levels, skills levels will be measured in a very timely fashion.

12. School Evaluation

The methods of self-assessment that will be used to ensure that the school is meeting its stated missions and objectives will be evaluations on a periodic basis through self assessment involving parents, student leaders, teachers, administrators and the board of directors. We will review our mission statement and our daily plan to achieve that mission; we will determine if our daily curriculum contributes to the achievement of our mission.

Regular dialogue with parents is built into the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School through the Faculty/Student Advisor program. Within this program, every student has an advisor from the faculty with whom the student meets on a monthly basis for both academic assessment and to set personal, attainable goals in keeping with the character building program of the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School. Advisors will be the persons who communicate to parents the results of the attainment evaluation, and who establish a routine of remediation that involves parents. Parents will be able to keep up with what is going on at school through the advisors. Because parents will be an intrinsic part of the education conducted at the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School, there will be ongoing, two-way communication.

Additionally, a Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School Accountability Committee will be established that will utilize input from parents, the community, students, teachers, and others as deemed appropriate.

13. Human Resource Information

Teaching and administrative staff will be selected through matches with job descriptions, as follows.

Dean

Job Description

The Dean will be responsible for all day-to-day decision making, financial transactions, purchase orders, documentation, testing, and information requests from the State. The Dean will be responsible for personnel scheduling, substitute teachers and aides, transportation arrangements, and other administrative functions as required by the school program. The Dean will delegate administrative work as appropriate.

Job Requirements

The position requires two or more years administrative experience managing a small staff, budget responsibility and planning the annual allocation of monies in the \$250,000 to \$500,000 range, experience with the education community and government contracting. Experience with developing curriculum, the Core Knowledge concept, charter school legislation and public relations experience in the public sector are also required.

Lead Teachers

Job Description

Lead Teachers will be responsible for implementing the curriculum, coordinating work loads with assistant instructors, maintaining current attainment level information, planning programs and providing materials for those not meeting the level of attainment and those performing beyond the level of attainment, keeping accurate and concise records, maintaining work portfolios, establishing personal classroom procedures, ordering teaching materials, adjusting students in various subjects, serving as advisors, requesting parent volunteers and reporting all educational-related activities to the Dean.

Job Requirements

All Lead Teachers must have at least a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in any discipline, experience in classroom education, and a strong desire to work with an innovative educational program; they must possess the ability to work cooperatively with others.

Teachers

Job Description

Teachers will be responsible for implementing curriculum, coordinating with Lead Teachers for their work loads, acquiring current attainment level information, reporting attainment levels below minimum or early attainment levels to the Lead Teacher, keeping accurate and concise records, assisting in maintaining work portfolios and following established classroom procedures. The Teacher may request teaching materials from the Lead Teacher, report all educational-related activities to the Lead Teacher and request the assistance of parent volunteers.

Job Requirements

All Teachers must have a Bachelor's degree in any discipline, prior experience in a classroom, and a strong desire to work with an innovative educational program. They must be able to work cooperatively with others.

Physical Education Teacher

Job Description

The Physical Education Teacher will develop the physical education curriculum, implement the physical education curriculum, establish physical education test methods and procedures and report the same to the Dean. The Physical Education Teacher will establish needed materials and equipment for physical education and the playground areas, request materials and equipment for physical education and the playground areas, establish safety guidelines for indoor and outdoor activities and use of the playground equipment, establish rules for use of the activity fields, monitor the condition and report irregularities of the playing fields, establish a schedule for indoor activities, request transportation for physical education activities off-site if needed, request parent volunteers as needed, organize parent volunteers, and monitor

use of equipment. The Physical Education Teacher will report all physical education related tests, concerns, needs, etc. directly to the Dean. This position is scheduled at 12 hours per week.

Job Requirements

The Physical Education Teacher must have a Bachelor's degree in physical education, or a related degree, prior coaching and/or teaching experience with elementary school aged children, experience with First Aide and CPR, and a strong desire to work with an innovative educational program; (s)he must possess the ability to work with others and manage a program independently. The Physical Education Teacher must be able to perform all job functions safely and correctly.

Classroom Aides

Job Description

Classroom Aides will be responsible for implementing curriculum, coordinating with Lead Teachers for their work loads, reporting attainment levels below minimum or early attainment to the Lead Teacher, keeping accurate and concise records and assisting in maintaining work portfolios. The Classroom Aide will follow established classroom procedures, request teaching materials from the Lead Teacher, and report all educational-related activities to the Lead Teacher. Classroom Aides will perform lunchtime and playground recess supervision.

Job Requirements

All Classroom Aides are expected to be recruited from the Early Childhood Education program at Dean College. As such, they will be matriculating students in their second year of study and will be selected based on grade point average, enthusiasm, teacher recommendation, and ability to work cooperatively.

Tutor

Job Description

This position is an hourly part-time job involving working with children one-on-one or in small groups in all disciplines. The Tutor will take his/her work schedule from the Dean, but will report to each Lead Teacher responsible for the individual child or groups of children receiving tutoring as to progress or need for additional assistance. The Tutor may be required to work with parent volunteers or may request parent volunteers from the appropriate Lead Teacher if needed.

Job Requirements

This job is ideal for a retired person or parent with experience teaching or tutoring who would like to assist children on a one-on-one basis or in small groups. The Tutor must have knowledge of a variety of subjects, possess a Bachelor's degree in any discipline, or have prior experience in tutoring. The applicant will work a flexible work schedule.

Clerical Aide

Job Description

The Clerical Aide will report directly to the Dean, and will be responsible for answering the phone, calling parents when a child becomes ill, filing, typing and light receptionist-type duties. The Clerical Aide may be required to type or copy as a support function to the teaching staff as well. The aide may also work in the classroom, assist at playground or otherwise support day-to-day operations, run errands, phone parent volunteers.

Job Requirements

The Clerical Aide must be able to type a minimum of 60 wpm accurately, be computer literate, have general office skills, prior experience working with children, the ability to work independently and a strong desire to work with an innovative educational program.

Teachers and administrators will be evaluated by the Governing Board (see 14). Once a month each Teacher Review Board Member (TR) will make a formal observation based on a set of established guidelines. Teacher Aides will also receive a formal observation. TRs will then report findings each month to the Governing Board and privately to each instructor. Observations will be tabulated by the TRs to observe trends in instructional efficiency, and year to date tabulations will be also reported to the Governing Board.

All observation reports will become a part of each instructor's permanent personnel file.

Dean

The Dean will be appointed for a term of 2 years. Evaluation of the Dean by the Governing Board will be based on the academic success of the school program, fiscal responsibility, ability to negotiate personnel issues, attendance at Governing Board meetings, and overall management ability.

14. School Governance

The internal form of management to be implemented at the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School will be a Governing Board and the Dean. They will be entirely responsible for operation of the school. The Governing Board will consist of seven members: five parents of children in the program, one community member at large (who may or may not be a parent) and the Dean. For the first school year, the members will be volunteers. In the second and subsequent years of operation, members will be elected by the Board of Directors and involved members of the founding coalition for a year of service, except for the Dean, who is automatically a member of the Governing Board. The Governing Board will have the right to establish sub-committees at its own discretion.

Each Governing Board member will have specific duties to the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School. The areas of responsibility are: Teacher Review (2 members), Student Advocate (1 member), Discipline (1 member), and Community Building Team (2 members).

Attendance at the Governing Board meetings is mandatory. Missing two consecutive meetings will result in immediate dismissal from the Board. In the event of dismissal or resignation from the Board, volunteers to serve the remainder of the term for any particular seat will be asked to apply. A volunteer will be selected by private vote of the Board from those interested.

Job Requirements

The Clerical Aide must be able to type a minimum of 60 wpm accurately, be computer literate, have general office skills, prior experience working with children, the ability to work independently and a strong desire to work with an innovative educational program.

Teachers and administrators will be evaluated by the Governing Board (see 14). Once a month each Teacher Review Board Member (TR) will make a formal observation based on a set of established guidelines. Teacher Aides will also receive a formal observation. TRs will then report findings each month to the Governing Board and privately to each instructor. Observations will be tabulated by the TRs to observe trends in instructional efficiency, and year to date tabulations will be also reported to the Governing Board.

All observation reports will become a part of each instructor's permanent personnel file.

Dean

The Dean will be appointed for a term of 2 years. Evaluation of the Dean by the Governing Board will be based on the academic success of the school program, fiscal responsibility, ability to negotiate personnel issues, attendance at Governing Board meetings, and overall management ability.

14. School Governance

The internal form of management to be implemented at the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School will be a Governing Board and the Dean. They will be entirely responsible for operation of the school. The Governing Board will consist of seven members: five parents of children in the program, one community member at large (who may or may not be a parent) and the Dean. For the first school year, the members will be volunteers. In the second and subsequent years of operation, members will be elected by the Board of Directors and involved members of the founding coalition for a year of service, except for the Dean, who is automatically a member of the Governing Board. The Governing Board will have the right to establish sub-committees at its own discretion.

Each Governing Board member will have specific duties to the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School. The areas of responsibility are: Teacher Review (2 members), Student Advocate (1 member), Discipline (1 member), and Community Building Team (2 members).

Attendance at the Governing Board meetings is mandatory. Missing two consecutive meetings will result in immediate dismissal from the Board. In the event of dismissal or resignation from the Board, volunteers to serve the remainder of the term for any particular seat will be asked to apply. A volunteer will be selected by private vote of the Board from those interested.

The Governing Board will comply with all Massachusetts General Laws including Chapter 71, Section 89. The Governing Board will meet at least once a month to discuss school operations and hear reports and updates from each board member, consider and adopt policy, change policy, and consider requests and concerns from parents, students and teachers. All decisions regarding curriculum and budget will be part of the responsibility of the Governing Board in consultation with teachers. All Governing Board members, including the Dean, will have equal weight when voting for changes to school policy and approving budgets, etc. All actions taken by the Governing Board will require a majority vote. A quorum of 5 is required for voting purposes.

15. Site Selection

The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School will lease classroom space in a 16 classroom grammar school owned by the Archdiocese of Boston that has been vacant (but utilized) for over 15 years. That site has been studied by the town's Classroom Needs Committee and found to be in "excellent condition," although the facility was probably built in the late 1950's or 1960's. This site was chosen because of its very visible placement overlooking the town common and within walking distance to the town library and Dean College. Dean offers a two year degree program in Elementary Education. We believe that the College may be willing to lease additional space to the charter school and work with us to develop a program in which their students gain experience and even academic credit for participation in the charter school program.

Part III

16. Code of Conduct

Rules governing student behavior will be based on the recognition of the dignity of all persons, and the assumption that our students are intelligent beings capable of making choices and accepting responsibility for their actions.

Respect: for self
 for other students
 for faculty and staff
 for the family
 for the community

will be the atmosphere established in the school.

This atmosphere will be embraced by the faculty as well, who will treat their students with respect by avoiding non-constructive, critical conversations of all sorts. Correction of student behavior will be accomplished in a charitable and respectful manner.

The Character Building Program and Student-Faculty Advisory Program will affect directly the code of conduct. For example, the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School will:

- instill in our students a love for the perfection of virtue and a desire to accomplish great goals in their lives using their individual struggle to use their talents and improve themselves as their measure of success;
- encourage students to challenge themselves each day physically, academically, socially, and ethically;
- convey that the abuse of drugs and alcohol is a misuse of freedom which degrades the dignity of the human person and will not be tolerated at the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School;
- provide the criteria and mental astuteness to enable students to distinguish between right and wrong, and the strength of will to enable them to stand, even if alone, for what they know is right and good;
- expect honesty in all dealings both social and academic;
- determine a dress code in accord with the founding principle that school work is the present professional work of our students.

Anyone engaging in activities contrary to the rules laid out in the handbook will be subject to disciplinary action. The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School will not tolerate drugs; alcohol consumption; weapons; aggressive or violent behavior or speech, including sexual harassment or attacks; or destruction of property. Engaging in any of these activities will result in the student's expulsion.

18. FUNDING

B. The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School has devised a 5-Year Budget covering projected income and planned expenditures.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOL							9/30/94																
FIVE YEAR PRO-FORMA BUDGET																							
SCHOOL YEAR	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000																	
NUMBER OF STUDENTS	160	180	190	200	200	220																	
PER PUPIL EXPENDITURE	\$4,400	\$4,400	\$4,400	4500	4600	4600																	
TOTAL TUITION FUNDS IN	\$704,000	\$792,000	\$836,000	\$900,000	\$920,000	\$1,012,000																	
CASH CONTRIBUTIONS	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$28,000	\$30,000	\$20,000																	
FOUNDATION GRANTS	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$40,000																	
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	\$754,000	\$852,000	\$911,000	\$978,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,072,000																	
=====																							
inflation rate	3.50%																						
DISBURSEMENTS																							
STAFF SALARIES	\$396,550	\$455,288	\$490,219	\$525,806	\$542,081	\$598,294																	
HEALTH INSURANCE	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000																	
LIABILITY INSURANCE \$100 PER STUDENT	\$16,000	\$18,000	\$19,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$22,000																	
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	\$25,000	\$25,875	\$26,781	\$27,718	\$28,688	\$29,692																	
RENT	\$48,000	\$49,680	\$51,419	\$53,218	\$55,081	\$57,009																	
UTILITIES	\$15,000	\$15,525	\$16,068	\$16,631	\$17,213	\$17,815																	
SUPPLIES /\$400 PER STUDENT	\$64,000	\$72,000	\$76,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$88,000																	
TELEPHONE	\$5,000	\$5,175	\$5,356	\$5,544	\$5,738	\$5,938																	
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$118,965	\$136,586	\$147,068	\$157,742	\$162,624	\$179,488																	
MISCELLANEOUS	\$15,000	\$15,525	\$16,068	\$16,631	\$17,213	\$17,815																	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$753,515	\$843,654	\$897,977	\$953,290	\$978,638	\$1,066,052																	
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$485	\$8,346	\$13,023	\$24,710	\$21,362	\$5,948																	
SALARY BREAKDOWN																							
#	BASE	POSITION	TOTAL	#	BASE	POSITION	TOTAL	#	BASE	POSITION	TOTAL	#	BASE	POSITION	TOTAL								
1	50000	DEAN	\$50,000	1	\$50,000		\$50,000	1	\$50,000		\$50,000	1	\$50,000		\$50,000								
8	30000	LEAD TEACHERS	\$240,000	9	\$270,000	9.5	\$285,000	10	\$300,000	10	\$300,000	11	\$330,000		\$330,000								
4	15000	ASST TEACHERS	\$60,000	4.5	\$67,500	4.75	\$71,250	5	\$75,000	5	\$75,000	5.5	\$82,500		\$82,500								
0.8	25000	P/E INSTRUCTOR	\$20,000	1	\$25,000	1	\$25,000	1	\$25,000	1	\$25,000	1	\$25,000		\$25,000								
1	15000	CLERICAL AIDE	\$15,000	1	\$15,000	1	\$15,000	1	\$15,000	1	\$15,000	1	\$15,000		\$15,000								
SUBTOTAL			\$385,000				\$427,500				\$446,250				\$465,000				\$465,000				\$502,500
3.50% INFLATION FACTOR							\$14,963				\$30,581				\$46,856				\$63,131				\$80,719
3.00% INCENTIVE POOL			\$11,550				\$12,825				\$13,388				\$13,950				\$13,950				\$15,075
TOTAL SALARY			\$396,550				\$455,288				\$490,219				\$525,806				\$542,081				\$598,294

19. Accountability

On an annual basis, financial statements developed in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards for non-profit institutions will be subject to independent audit. This independent audit will assure that the financial statements of the school present fairly in all material aspects the financial condition of the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School. All parents of children enrolled in the school will be advised as to the availability of the Annual Report of Financial and Operational Condition and will be encouraged to review this information. Confidential data such as that relating to salary levels of the school staff will be maintained by the Dean.

The Finance Subcommittee of the Board of Directors will meet once a month or on an as-needed basis with the Dean. At these intervals the income and expenditures of the school will be reviewed in comparison with the previously developed budget for that school year. Major expenditure items that arise throughout the year will be presented to the Board of Directors for review and discussion.

We will fulfill all applicable public school laws for maintaining school records and disseminating information. A full-time secretary with public school experience will be employed and will work closely with the Dean and the Board of Directors to accomplish this requirement. All appropriate information will be available in the school office for viewing by the public.

20. Transportation

We are discussing plans with the Superintendent of Schools to utilize existing bus routes in the town of Franklin, varying our opening and closing schedule to facilitate coordination. Students will be picked up at existing bus stops.

Students living outside the district will require privately-arranged transportation. The school will assist by providing information for those interested in establishing car pools.

21. Liability and Insurance

Since the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School's site selection process is still on-going, we have not secured insurance at this time. However, we are considering the Utica National Insurance Group, located in New Hartford, NY, as our insurance carrier. We will have complete property coverage, as well as complete liability protection and school and educators' legal liability insurance. The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School acknowledges that it is bound by Chapter 258 of Massachusetts General Law regarding its Board of Directors.

Contents and Personal Property Damage: will cover all contents and personal property of every description belonging to the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School and located in the school building. It will cover replacement costs, as well as boiler and machinery insurance.

School Operations Insurance: will cover tuition fees (known as Loss of Income insurance) in the event of damage or destruction to the school building, as well as Extra Expense insurance, which may be needed if the school is forced to lease a temporary space due to damage to school building.

Comprehensive General Liability: Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School will hold a minimum of \$1,000,000.00 of Comprehensive General Liability as well as Product Liability and Individual Liability insurance covering volunteers, teachers, and other school employees as additional insureds.

Workmen's Compensation, Group Health Insurance, and a minimum of \$1,000,000.00 Directors and Officers Liability will all be included in our liability and insurance coverage.

At the present time the Board of Directors of the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School is negotiating with both the Archdiocese of Boston and representatives of Dean College, and anticipates housing the school in one or both of these facilities. Both facilities are presently operating as schools, and therefore have fulfilled all local, state and federal health and safety laws and regulations.



Town of Franklin Human Services Department

FRANKLIN MUNICIPAL BUILDING
150 EMMONS STREET
FRANKLIN, MASSACHUSETTS 02038

Telephone (508) 520-4909
528-7900

February 11, 1994

Director of Human Services
MICHAEL D. JONES, M.C.P.

Human Services Coordinator
JAY S. COHEN, M.S.W., LCSW

Council on Aging
SENIOR CENTER
80 West Central Street
Meals Reservations
520-4945

Program Director
CAROL LARUE

SENIOR TRANSPORTATION
520-4909

Peg Murphy
Ben Franklin Classical Charter School
5 Longfellow Drive
Franklin, MA 02038

Dear Ms. Murphy:

I am writing in support of your application to establish a Charter School to serve the Franklin community.


After discussing with you your concepts for a Charter School based on a conceptual framework of "Core Knowledge", self esteem/character building and community service sequences, I believe that your project would be of great benefit to Franklin and surrounding communities.

I am also a strong believer in the benefits of experiential learning for students and feel that essential personal growth and internalization of knowledge is achieved from learning to help others. I also believe that special support and educational conditions must accompany such a learning style. Many universities, colleges and high schools, including Dean College in Franklin, are adding experiential or "Service Learning" components to their curriculums. These same concepts should start with students at a more developmental age so that youths grow with the idea of using their education and skills to serve and improve humankind. I applaud your integrating this style of learning directly into your core curriculum.

As a social worker, I see many youths who are having a difficult time negotiating the public school system due to home, personal, social or other difficulties. While the Franklin School System provides an excellent education for most students, there are a number of students (and families) for whom an alternative educational approach would be of great benefit.

I look forward to the continued development of your Charter School application and to working closely with you once the project has been initiated.

Very truly yours,



Jay S. Cohen, MSW, LCSW
Human Services Coordinator

RECREATION

YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

COUNCIL ON AGING

18 Longfellow Drive
Franklin, MA 02038

February 12, 1994

Secretary, Department of Education
Executive Office of Education
1 Ashburton Place
Room 1401
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Mr. Secretary,

We would like to offer our overwhelming support for the proposed Ben Franklin Classical Charter School to be founded in Franklin, Massachusetts. In talking with the enthusiastic people seeking to establish the school, it is obvious to us how beneficial this school would be to the community. The school will offer to all of its students a wonderful "core of knowledge" which will help propel them into the 21st Century. We feel that the "classical" approach will help to build a good foundation for the students, the future leaders of the world.

The founders of this school are seeking to mesh all aspects of an excellent education, and we feel their proposal is a sound one. They have identified the need for a more "classical" education as well as a need to teach problem solving and character building. We feel that this approach sounds like a natural extension of the public school system. By affecting an evolutionary rather than revolutionary change, we think this school can lead the way for the public schools, providing an example which can have a positive effect on the rest of public education.

In closing, we wish to emphasize our wholehearted support for the Ben Franklin Classical Charter School, and we strongly urge you to approve the proposal for this school.

Sincerely,

Barbara Tayne Gerlits
David W. Gerlits

Barbara Tayne Gerlits
David William Gerlits

LETTER OF SUPPORT

We believe that there is a need for a charter school that incorporates a core curriculum of subjects to insure a thorough background of knowledge and a thirst for learning which will endure throughout one's life.

We believe that universal character traits and service to the community build the self-esteem that is necessary for children to develop healthy minds in healthy bodies. We believe that emotionally, physically, mentally healthy children grow up to be mature adults who can manage their own lives, continue to grow in all areas, and share their wellness with others.

We support the parents who are applying for a core curriculum charter school in Franklin, Massachusetts.

The
Wise Old Owl
Educational Toys & Gifts

456 West Central Street (Rt. 140)

Franklin Square

Franklin, MA 02038

508-541-8616

Maria P. Piedra

MARIA P. PIEDRA

Feb. 13, 1994

Dear Madame Secretary,

We are writing to express our interest in the proposed Ben Franklin Classical Charter School. As the parents of three children enrolled in Franklin Elementary Schools, two of whom have special needs, we have been very involved in the adaptation of the curriculum to meet the individual student's needs & to help them to achieve their personal educational goals. While we have been pleased with the educational services provided to our children by the town of Franklin, we would very much like the opportunity to offer our children the alternative curriculum as described to us by Peg Murphy.

Both the core knowledge sequence and character building aspects of this curriculum interest us. Two of our children would benefit from a more intellectually challenging curriculum as they are both straight A students who are often bored in class. In addition, we would value a curriculum which

actively reinforced moral values instilled at home.

Based on our conversations with many parents concerned with obtaining a high quality education for their children, Franklin is ripe for such a Charter School.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this proposal for the Ben Franklin Classical Charter School.

Sincerely,

Paula B. Labelle

Peter M. John

16 Longobardi Drive
Franklin, MA 02038

Mrs. Judith B. Silva
42 Langfellow Drive
Franklin, Ma 02038

February 13, 1994

To Mrs. Peg Murphy,

I believe the idea of creating The Ben Franklin Classical Charter School is a good one. It will present a wonderful alternative to the residents of Franklin. As a former secondary school science teacher I look forward to learning more about the proposed science program.

Ideas such as this should be supported in order to provide all possible opportunities for those who wish to participate.

Sincerely,

Judith B. Silva

This is to acknowledge my support
of a charter school in the town
of Franklin. As a local realtor
I feel that the town would
not only benefit but the
state would obtain valuable
information from the dedicated
people who are working so
hard to provide a quality
education to the up and coming
citizens of our town.

Sincerely
Linda Burger

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOL
LETTER OF SUPPORT

"I support the idea of Charter Schools because:

- I would like to explore any option to the current education system.
- I think the public education system could do a better job.
- I think the public education system is doing a poor job.
- I want direct input on my child(ren)s learning experience.
- I think teachers and administrators should be held personally accountable for their work performance.
- I feel my child(ren) could learn more than they are now.
- I would prefer an education choice to paying private school tuition.
- I feel that public education is my right, so I should get a quality product. But the current system is not responding to my needs.

My current concern stems from the fact that:

- I am a resident of Franklin or a nearby town ()
- I am a homeowner in my town.
- My child(ren) are have will attend (ed) (ing) public schools.
- My child(ren) are have will attend (ed) (ing) private schools.

My children are graduated,

- but I would have liked an alternative educational choice for them
- and I utilized a private school to meet my needs.

If I were able to influence directly the things and the way my child(ren) is (are) being taught,

- I would become more involved in school activities.
- I would volunteer my time and talents.
- I would not become more involved or volunteer my time or talents.

If I had the choice to place my child(ren) in an alternative environment which stressed academics, discipline, self-esteem, and instructional efficiency at no cost to my family, I would:

_____ enroll now find out more _____ not consider it

Name: Helene R. Jasmin

Address: 131 LONGHILL RD.

City: FRANKLIN State: MA

Optional phone number:

Zip: 02038

508-528-6824

Board of Trustees

Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School

Mr. Matt Ginnetty
6 Sunken Meadow Road
Franklin, MA 02038

(617) 533-5808
(617) 345-5612

Ms. Peg Murphy
5 Longfellow Drive
Franklin, MA 02038

(617) 528-3141

Mr. Brian Johansson
5 Chickadee Drive
Norfolk, MA 02056

(617) 520-3554

Ms. Katherine Ginnetty
6 Sunken Meadow Road
Franklin, MA 02038

(617) 533-5808
(617) 345-5612

Mr. Dave Brennan
127 Summer Street
Franklin, MA 02038

(617) 520-0413

Ms. Anne Johansson
5 Chickadee Drive
Norfolk, MA 02056

(617) 520-3554

Ms. Tammy Mahoney
440 Coronation Drive
Franklin, MA 02038

(617) 528-7326

Ms. Mary Brennan
127 Summer Street
Franklin, MA 02038

(617) 520-0413

Mr. Tim Casey
390 Oakland Parkway
Franklin, MA 02038

(617) 541-8508

Mr. Paul Mahoney
440 Coronation Drive
Franklin, MA 02038

(617) 528-7326

Mr. Rick Robinson
1 Meadowbrook Road
Franklin, MA 02038

(617) 520-1785

Ms. Julie Casey
390 Oakland Parkway
Franklin, MA 02038

(617) 541-8508

Mr. Bob Murphy
5 Longfellow Drive
Franklin, MA 02038

(617) 528-3141

Ms. Lori Robinson
1 Meadowbrook
Franklin, MA 02038

(617) 520-1785

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SECRETARY OF STATE .

MICHAEL J. CONNOLLY, Secretary

ONE ASHBURTON PLACE, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION

(Under G.L. Ch. 180)

ARTICLE I

The name of the corporation is:

The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School, Inc.

ARTICLE II

The purpose of the corporation is to engage in the following activities:

See Appendix "A" Attached

94-137036

C
P
M
R.A.

Note: If the space provided under any article or item on this form is insufficient, additions shall be set forth on separate 8½ x 11 sheets of paper leaving a left hand margin of at least 1 inch. Additions to more than one article may be continued on a single sheet so long as each article requiring each such addition is clearly indicated.

16
P.C.

APPENDIX "A"

A. For the following educational purposes:

1. To establish a charter school along with all the purposes, powers and responsibilities of charter schools as set forth in M.G.L. c.71s.89.
2. To safeguard, defend and advocate on behalf of parents as the primary educators of their children by providing students with a classical education coupled with a character development program.
3. To promote among all students and their families the highest standards of academic exercise and achievement of which each individual student is capable by providing a classical education largely based on the content outlined in the core knowledge sequence.
4. To promote among all students and their families the highest standard of character development, virtue and ethics through the modeling of universally-accepted and respected character traits.
5. To promote a deep appreciation among all citizens of their responsibilities for civic life through service projects and participation in community affairs at the local, state, national and international level.

B. The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School, Inc. is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, education, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of such distributions to such organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal

Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law). No part of the net earning of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, the members, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth herein. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law). It is intended that the corporation shall be entitled to exemption from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and shall not be a private foundation under section 509(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, education, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of nay future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the directors shall determine.

APPENDIX "B"

4. The corporation shall have the following powers in furtherance of its corporate purposes:
- (a) The corporation shall have perpetual succession in its corporate name.
 - (b) The corporation may sue and be sued.
 - (c) The corporation may have a corporate seal which it may alter at pleasure.
 - (d) The corporation may elect or appoint directors, officers, employees and other agents, fix their compensation and define their duties and obligations.
 - (e) The corporation may purchase, receive or take by grant, gift, devise, bequest or otherwise, lease, or otherwise acquire, own, hold, improve, employ, use and otherwise deal in and with, real or personal property, or any interest therein, wherever situated, in an unlimited amount.
 - (f) The corporation may solicit and receive contributions from any and all sources and may receive and hold, in trust or otherwise, funds received by gift or bequest.
 - (g) The corporation may sell, convey, lease, exchange, transfer or otherwise dispose of, or mortgage, pledge, encumber or create a security interest in, all or any of its property, or any interest therein, wherever situated.

- (h) The corporation may purchase, take, receive, subscribe for, or otherwise acquire, own, hold, vote, employ, sell, lend, lease, exchange, transfer, or otherwise dispose of, mortgage, pledge, use and otherwise deal in and with, bonds and other obligations, shares, or other securities or interests issued by others, whether engaged in similar or different business, governmental, or other activities.
- (i) The corporation may make contracts and incur liabilities, borrow money at such rates of interest as the corporation may determine, issue its notes, bonds and other obligations, and secure any of its obligations by mortgage, pledge or encumbrance of, or security interest in, all or any of its property or any interest therein, wherever situated.
- (j) The corporation may invest and reinvest its funds, and take and hold real and personal property as security for the payment of funds so loaned or invested.
- (k) The corporation may do business, carry on its operations, and have offices and exercise the powers granted by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 180, in any jurisdiction within or without the United States, although the corporation shall not be operated for the primary purpose of carrying on for profit a trade or business unrelated to its tax exempt purposes.

- (l) The corporation may pay pensions, establish and carry out pensions, savings, thrift and other retirement and benefit plans, trusts and provisions for any or all of its directors, officers and employees.
- (m) The corporation may make donations in such amounts as the members or directors shall determine, irrespective of corporate benefit, for the public welfare or for community fund, hospital, charitable, religious, educational, scientific, civic, or similarly purposes, and in time of war or other national emergency in aid thereof; provided that, as long as the corporation is entitled to exemption from federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, it shall make no contribution for other than religious, charitable, scientific, testing for public safety, literary or educational purposes or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals.
- (n) The corporation may be an incorporator of other corporations of any type or kind.
- (o) The corporation may be a partner in any business enterprise which it would have power to conduct by itself.
- (p) Meeting of the members may be held anywhere in the United States.
- (q) The corporation shall, to the extent legally permissible and only to the extent that the status of the corporation as an organization exempt under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code is not affected thereby, if such

status is conferred upon the corporation, indemnify each of its directors, officers, employees and other agents (including persons who serve at its request as directors, officers, employees or other agents of another organization in which it has an interest) against all liabilities and expenses, including amounts paid in satisfaction of judgments, in compromise or as fines and penalties, and counsel fees, reasonably incurred by him in connection with the defense or disposition of any action, suit or other proceeding, whether civil or criminal, in which he may be involved or with which he may be threatened, while in office or thereafter, by reason of his being or having been such a director, officer, employee or agent, except with respect to any matter as to which he shall have been adjudicated in any proceeding not to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that his action was in the best interests of the corporation; provided, however, that as to any matter disposed of by a compromise payment by such director, officer, employee or agent, pursuant to a consent decree or otherwise, no indemnification either for said payment or for any other expenses shall be provided unless such compromise shall be approved as in the best interests of the corporation, after notice that it involves such indemnification: (a) by a disinterested majority of the directors then in office; or (b) by a majority of the disinterested

directors then in office, provided that there has been obtained an opinion in writing of independent legal counsel to the effect that such director, officer, employee or agent appears to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that his action was in the best interests of the corporation; or (c) by a majority of the disinterested members entitled to vote, voting as a single class. Expenses including counsel fees, reasonably incurred by any such director, officer, employee or agent in connection with the defense or disposition of any such action, suit or other proceeding, may be paid from time to time by the corporation in advance of the final disposition thereof upon receipt of an undertaking by such individual to repay the amounts so paid to the corporation if he shall be adjudicated to be not entitled to indemnification under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 180, Section 6. The right of indemnification hereby provided shall not be exclusive of or affect any other rights to which any director, officer, employee or agent may be entitled. Nothing contained herein shall affect any rights to indemnification to which corporate personnel may be entitled by contract or otherwise under law. As used in this paragraph, the terms "directors," "officers," "employees" and "agents" include their respective heirs, executors and administrators, and an "interested" director is one against whom in such capacity the proceeding in

question or another proceeding on the same or similar grounds is then pending.

(r) No person shall be disqualified from holding any office by reason of any interest. In the absence of fraud, any director, officer, or member of this corporation individually, or any individual having any interest in any concerning in which any such directors, officers, members, or individuals have any interest, may be a party to, or may be pecuniarily or otherwise interested in, any contract, transaction, or other act of this corporation, and

(1) such contract, transaction, or act shall not be in any way invalidated or otherwise affected by that fact;

(2) no such director, officer, member, or individual shall be liable to account to this corporation for any profit or benefit realized through any such contract, transaction, or act; and

(3) any such director of this corporation may be counted in determining the existence of a quorum at any meeting of the directors or of any committee thereof which shall authorize any such contract, transaction, or act, and may vote to authorize the same;

the term "interest" including personal interest and interest as a directors, officer, stockholder,

shareholder, trustee, member or beneficiary of any concern; the term "concern" meaning any corporation, association, trust, partnership, firm, person, or other entity other than this corporation.

- (s) No part of the assets of the corporation and no part of any net earnings of the corporation shall be divided among or inure to the benefit of any officer or director of the corporation or any private individual or be appropriated for any purposes other than the purpose of the corporation as herein set forth; and no substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting, to influence legislation except to the extent that the corporation makes expenditures for purposes of influencing legislation in conformity with the requirements of Section 501(h) of the Internal Revenue Code; and the corporation shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. It is intended that the corporation shall be entitled to exemption from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and shall not be a private foundation under Section 509(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- (t) Upon the liquidation or dissolution of the corporation, after payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation or due provision therefor, all of the assets of the

corporation shall be disposed of to one or more organizations exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

- (u) In the event that the corporation is a private foundation as that term is defined in Section 509 of the Internal Revenue Code, then notwithstanding any other provisions of the articles or organization or the by-laws of the corporation, the following provisions shall apply:

The Directors shall distribute the income for each taxable year at such time and in such manner as not to become subject to the tax on undistributed income imposed by Section 4942 of the Internal Revenue Code.

The directors shall not engage in any act of self dealing as defined in Section 4941(d) of the Internal Revenue Code; not retain any excess business holdings as defined in Section 4943(c) of the Internal Revenue Code; nor make any investments in such manner as to incur tax liability under Section 4944 of the Internal Revenue Code; nor make any taxable expenditures as defined in Section 4945(d) of the Internal Revenue Code.

- (v) The corporation shall have and may exercise all powers necessary or convenient to effect any or all of the purposes for which the corporation is formed; provided that no such power shall be exercised in a manner inconsistent with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 180 or any other chapter of the General laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and provided, further that the corporation shall not engage in any activity or exercise any power which would deprive it of any exemption

from federal income tax which the corporation may receive under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, if such status is conferred upon the corporation.

- (w) All references herein: (i) to the Internal Revenue Code shall be deemed to refer to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as now in force of hereafter amended; (ii) to the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or any chapter thereof, shall be deemed to refer to said General Laws or chapter as now in force or here after amended; and (iii) to particular sections of the Internal Revenue Code or the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall be deemed to refer to similar or successor provisions hereafter adopted.

ARTICLE V

By-laws of the corporation have been duly adopted and the initial directors, president, treasurer and clerk or other presiding, financial or recording officers, whose names are set out below, have been duly elected.

ARTICLE VI

The effective date of organization of the corporation shall be the date of filing with the Secretary of the Commonwealth or if a later date is desired, specify date, (not more than 30 days after date of filing).

The information contained in ARTICLE VII is NOT a PERMANENT part of the Articles of Organization and may be changed ONLY by filing the appropriate form provided therefor.

ARTICLE VII

a. The post office address of the initial principal office of the corporation IN MASSACHUSETTS is: 390 OAKLAND PARKWAY Franklin MA 02038

b. The name, residence and post office address of each of the initial directors and following officers of the corporation are as follows:

	NAME	RESIDENCE	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	
President:	MARGARET MURPHY	5 Longfellow DRIVE	FRANKLIN MA 02038	SAME
Treasurer:	DAVID BRENNAN	127 SUMMER ST.	FRANKLIN MA 02038	SAME
Clerk:	KATHERINE GINNETTY	6 SUNKER MEADOW RD.	FRANKLIN MA 02038	SAME

Directors: (or officers having the powers of directors).

	NAME	RESIDENCE	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	
	TIMOTHY J. CASEY	390 OAKLAND PKWY	FRANKLIN MA 02038	SAME

c. The fiscal year of the corporation shall end on the last day of the month of: August 31

d. The name and BUSINESS address of the RESIDENT AGENT of the corporation, if any, is: None

I/We the below-signed INCORPORATORS do hereby certify under the pains and penalties of perjury that I/We have not been convicted of any crimes relating to alcohol or gaming within the past ten years. I/We do hereby further certify that to the best of my/our knowledge the above-named principal officers have not been similarly convicted. If so convicted, explain.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF and under the pains and penalties of perjury, I/WE, whose signature(s) appear below as incorporator(s) and whose names and business or residential address(es) ARE CLEARLY TYPED OR PRINTED beneath each signature do hereby associate with the intention of forming this corporation under the provisions of General Laws Chapter 180 and do hereby sign these Articles of Organization as incorporator(s) this 17th day of May 1994.

Timothy J. Casey

NOTE: If an already-existing corporation is acting as incorporator, type in the exact name of the corporation, the state or other jurisdiction where it was incorporated, the name of the person signing on behalf of said corporation and the title he/she holds or other authority by which such action is taken.

BY-LAWS
OF
THE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN CLASSICAL
CHARTER SCHOOL, INC.

ARTICLE I

Name, Purposes, Location, Corporate Seal and Fiscal Year

1.1 Name. The name of the corporation shall be The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter School, Inc.

1.2 Purposes. The purposes of the corporation shall be as set forth in the Articles of Organization.

1.3 Location. The principal office of the corporation in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall be located at 390 Oakland Parkway, Franklin, Massachusetts. The Directors may change the location of the principal office in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts upon filing a certificate with the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

1.4 Corporate Seal. The Directors may adopt and alter the seal of the corporation.

1.5 Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the corporation shall, unless otherwise decided by the Directors, end on August 31 in each year.

ARTICLE II

Board of Directors

2.1 Number, Election and Tenure. There shall be elected by the current Board Of Directors by three-fourths vote at each annual meeting at least ten (10) individuals to serve as Directors for the succeeding year. The number of elected Directors shall not, at any one time, exceed thirty-one (31). Each elected Director shall hold office until the fifth annual meeting of the members after the Director's election and until such Director's successor is elected and qualified, or until such Director earlier dies, resigns, is removed or becomes disqualified. Candidates for Directorship shall be selected by a nominating committee established by the Directors.

2.2 Powers. The affairs of the corporation shall be managed by the Directors who shall have and may exercise all the powers of the corporation, except those powers reserved by law, the Articles of Organization or these By-Laws.

2.3 Committees. The Directors or the President, with the approval of the Directors, may appoint committees as decided to be necessary or desirable, and the Directors may delegate to any such committee or committees any of their powers. Unless the Directors otherwise designate, committees shall conduct their affairs in the same manner as is provided in these By-Laws for the Directors. The members of any committee shall remain in office at the pleasure of the Directors.

2.4 Suspension or Removal. A Director may be suspended or removed by a vote of the majority of the Directors then in office.

2.5 Resignation. A Director may resign by delivering his written resignation to the Clerk of the corporation. Such resignation shall be effective upon receipt (unless specified to be effective at some other time), and acceptance thereof shall not be necessary to make it effective unless it so states.

2.6 Vacancies. Any vacancies in the Board of Directors may be filled by the Directors. Each successor shall hold office for the unexpired term. The Directors shall have and may exercise all their powers notwithstanding the existence of one (1) or more vacancies in their number.

2.7 Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at least four (4) times a year.

2.8 Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Directors may be held at any time and at any place when called by the President or by a majority of the Directors.

2.9 Call and Notice. Reasonable notice of the time and place of meetings of the Directors shall be given to each Director. Except as otherwise expressly provided, it shall be reasonable and sufficient notice to a Director to send notice by mail at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting addressed to him at his usual or last known business or residence address.

2.10 Quorum. At any meeting of the Directors, a majority of the Directors then in office shall constitute a quorum. Any meeting may be adjourned by a majority of the votes cast upon the question, whether or not a quorum is present, and the meeting may be held as adjourned without further notice.

2.11 Action by Vote. When a quorum is present at any meeting, a majority of the Directors present and voting shall decide any question, including election of officers, unless otherwise provided by law, the Articles of Organization or these By-Laws.

2.12 Action by Writing. Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Directors may be taken without a

meeting if all the Directors consent to the action in writing and the written consents are filed with the records of the meetings of the Directors. Such consents shall be treated for all purposes as a vote at a meeting.

2.13 Other Agencies. Persons representing the corporation shall be designated by the Board of Directors of the corporation.

ARTICLE III

Advisors of the Corporation

The Directors may designate certain persons or groups of persons as advisors of the corporation or such other title as they deem appropriate. Such persons shall serve in an honorary capacity and, except as the Directors shall otherwise designate, shall in such capacity have no right to notice of or vote at any meeting, shall not be considered for purposes of a quorum, and shall have no other rights or responsibilities.

ARTICLE IV

Officers and Agents

4.1 Number and Qualifications. The officers of the corporation shall be a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Clerk and such other officers, if any, as the Directors may determine. The corporation may also have such agents, if any, as the Directors may appoint. The Clerk shall be a resident of Massachusetts. A person may hold more than one (1) office at the same time.

4.2 Election. The President, Vice President, Treasurer and Clerk shall be elected annually by the Directors from their number at their first meeting following the annual meeting of the members. Other officers, if any, may be elected by the Directors at any time.

4.3 Tenure. The President, Vice President, Treasurer and Clerk shall each hold office until the next annual meeting and until his successor is chosen and qualified, and each other officer shall hold office until the next annual meeting unless a shorter period shall have been specified by the terms of his other election or appointment, or in each case until he earlier dies, resigns, is removed or becomes disqualified.

4.4 President and Vice Presidents. The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the corporation and, subject to the control of the Directors, shall have general charge and

supervision of the affairs of the corporation. The President shall preside at all meetings of the members and at all meetings of the Directors.

The Vice President or Vice President, if any, shall have such duties and powers as the Directors shall determine. The Vice President, or first Vice President if there are more than one, shall have and may exercise all the powers and duties of the President during the absence of the President or in the event of his inability to act.

4.5 Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Accounting Officer of the Corporation. The Treasurer shall be in charge of its financial affairs, funds, securities and valuable papers and shall keep full and accurate records thereof. The Treasurer shall have such other duties and powers as designated by the Directors or the President. The Treasurer shall also be in charge of its books of account and accounting records and of its accounting procedures and shall at the annual meeting provide financial statements.

4.6 Clerk. The Clerk shall record and maintain records of all proceedings of the members and the Directors in a book or series of books kept for that purpose, which book or books shall be kept at the principal office of the corporation or at the office of its Clerk and shall be open at all reasonable times to the inspection of any member. Such book or books shall also contain records of all meetings of incorporators and the original or attested copies of the Articles of Organization and By-Laws and names of all members and Directors and the address of each. If the Clerk is absent from any meeting of members or Directors, a temporary Clerk chosen at the meeting shall exercise the duties of the Clerk at the meeting. The Clerk shall keep a list of members and give notice of meetings.

4.7 Suspension of Removal. An officer may be suspended or removed with or without cause by vote of a majority of Directors then in office at any special meeting called for such purpose or at any regular meeting.

4.8 Resignation. An officer may resign by delivering his written resignation to the President, Treasurer or Clerk of the corporation. Such resignation shall be effective upon receipt (unless specified to be effective at some other time), and acceptance thereof shall not be necessary to make it effective unless it so states.

4.9 Vacancies. If the office of any officer becomes vacant, the Directors may elect a successor. Each such successor shall hold office for the unexpired term, and in the case of the President, Treasurer and Clerk, until his successor is elected and qualified, or in each case until he earlier dies, resigns, is removed or becomes disqualified.

ARTICLE V

Execution of Papers

Except as the Directors may generally or in particular cases authorize the execution thereof in some other manner, all deeds, leases, transfers, contracts, bonds, notes, checks, drafts and other obligations made, accepted or endorsed by the corporation shall be signed by the President or by the Treasurer.

Any recordable instrument purporting to affect an interest in real estate, executed in the name of the corporation by two (2) of its officers, in whom one (1) is the President or a Vice President and the other is the Treasurer or an Assistant Treasurer, shall be binding on the corporation in favor of a purchaser or other person relying in good faith on such instrument notwithstanding any inconsistent provisions of the Articles of Organization, By-Laws, resolutions or votes of the corporation.

ARTICLE VI

Personal Liability

The members, Directors and officers of the corporation shall not be personally liable for any debt, liability or obligation of the corporation. All persons, corporations or other entities extending credit to, contracting with or having any claims against the corporation may look only to the funds and property of the corporation for the payment of any such contract or claim, or for the payment of any debt, damages, judgment or decree, or of any money that may otherwise become due or payable to them from the corporation.

ARTICLE VII

Miscellaneous Provisions

7.1 Amendments. These By-laws may be altered, amended or repealed in whole or in part by unanimous vote of the Directors then in office, except with respect to any provisions thereof which by law, the Articles or Organization or these By-Laws requires action by the members.

